



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – February 22, 2012
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Dan Esty
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Macky McCleary

Raised Senate Bill No. 91 - An Act Concerning the Enhanced Harbor Management Responsibilities

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised Senate Bill No. 91 – An Act Concerning the Enhanced Harbor Management Responsibilities. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

DEEP appreciates the work of Harbor Management Commissions and the local expertise they bring to their advisory role at both the state and municipal levels. However, the language of the proposed bill is unclear regarding exactly what harbor management “responsibilities” should be enhanced. Not all eligible towns have harbor management commissions, and the commissions themselves vary widely with respect to the issues they focus on and the scope of activities they undertake. Accordingly, we are concerned that this legislation might be interpreted as promoting an unfunded mandate on municipalities to undertake additional harbor management regulations or requirements without additional resources. In any event, the Department will be happy to work with the proponents of the bill and the harbor management community, including the Department of Transportation and its harbormaster program, to address their concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to present DEEP’s views on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact the Department’s legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance, at (860) 424-3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov.